



ASSEMBLYMEMBER  
**NICOLE PARRA**  
Representing the 30th Assembly District

**Parra Notes****September 30, 2007**

Hello Friends,

Now that the 2007 Session is over, I have already begun focusing on my most important legislative priority for 2008 – **AB 27**. AB 27 would keep the **California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley** (Partnership) in statute through 2020.

The Partnership was created by **Governor Schwarzenegger** when he signed **Executive Order S-5-05**. The Partnership brings state agency secretaries and Central Valley representatives together to make recommendations to the Governor regarding changes that would improve the economic well-being of the Valley and the quality of life of its residents. The 26-member Partnership, led by the Secretary of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, is composed of eight state government members, eight local government members nominated by their County Council of Governments and eight private sector members, along with two deputy chairs.

The creation of the Partnership granted state recognition to the fact that the San Joaquin Valley is a region rich in resources and important to California's heritage, economy, environment, and identity. The Partnership is tasked with identifying projects and programs to best utilize public dollars for the improvement of the economic vitality of the region, working with federal officials and others to gain support for projects identified as critical to the region, and recommending to the Governor changes that would improve the economic well-being of the Valley and the quality of life of our residents.

**It is because of the ongoing successes of the Partnership and the finite duration of the executive orders that I have introduced AB 27.** Extending the duration of the Partnership will allow it to undertake the worthy tasks outlined in the Strategic Action Proposal.

I invite and encourage you to participate in the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley's First Annual Summit on **Thursday, Oct. 4, 2007** at the **Visalia Convention Center**. The event is an opportunity for the Partnership to report to the community at large on the work, progress, and accomplishments of this unprecedented regional collaborative effort. The Summit will include a keynote address by an expert on regional actions, an overview of the partnership actions to date and the presentation of the partnership annual report. The program will also include interactive breakout sessions. For more information, visit <http://www.sjvpartnership.org>.

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## **What's Happening in Sacramento**

The **2007 California legislative session ended** on the morning of September 12, after Speaker Fabian Núñez (D-Los Angeles) convened two **Extraordinary Sessions** to address health care reform and water legislation. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger had earlier issued a proclamation requesting the special session. After an all night session, the Assembly adjourned at 3:26 a.m., sending 234 bills to the Governor's desk for consideration.

Shortly afterwards, Speaker Núñez announced two "working groups" of legislators to tackle the special session topics of health care and water (see below). The legislators will be working with the Speaker during the special session on crafting legislation on both issues. They began meeting last week, focusing on a broad array of water issues such as conveyance, storage, and conservation.

### **SPECIAL SESSION ON WATER – UPDATE**

Assemblymember John Laird, the **Assembly** lead on the working group focused on the special session on statewide water issues, has released a package of bills to fix the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and increase water supplies, emphasizing conservation, recycling and groundwater storage to boost water supplies.

**Senate** Pro Tem Don Perata has put forth a \$5 billion proposal that would free local water agencies to spend \$2 billion in state water supply money as they see fit – on dams, groundwater storage or other initiatives. It also includes \$2 billion for projects to repair the deteriorating Delta.

The **Governor** has introduced a third plan, being carried by Senator Dave Cogdill, which includes a similar amount in his plan for the Delta. The Governor's plan would authorize the state to pay for as much as half the cost of three dams for a total of \$5.1 billion. The targeted sites include one east of Fresno, another in Colusa County and expansion of an existing dam in Contra Costa County.

**On October 4 at 9:30am in Room 112 of the State Capitol**, the Senate will hold a hearing in Sacramento to discuss plans put forth by the Governor and Senator Perata. **Legislators have until October 16 to reach an agreement to put a measure on the February 5, 2008 ballot.**

You can access bill language through the following links:

- AB XX1 (Laird, and every member of the Assembly water working group) <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/acsframeset2text.htm>
- AB XX2 (Laird, and every member of the Assembly water working group) <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/acsframeset2text.htm>
- AB XX3 (Laird, and every member of the Assembly water working group) <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/acsframeset2text.htm>
- AB XX4 (Villines) <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/acsframeset2text.htm>
- SB XX1 (Perata/Machado/Steinberg) <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/acsframeset2text.htm>
- SB XX2 (Perata/Machado/Steinberg) <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/acsframeset2text.htm>
- SB XX3 (Cogdill) <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/acsframeset2text.htm>

- SB XX4 (Cogdill and Villines) <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/acsframeset2text.htm>

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### **My Legislative Highlights**

To assist the special session on water, **I hosted a conference call between local water districts, key stakeholders, and federal legislative leaders with Assemblymember John Laird (Chair, Assembly Budget Committee) and Assembly Speaker Núñez.** On the call, local water providers and key stakeholders were able to share with Sacramento leaders their thoughts on how to provide safe, reliable water to Valley communities. I continue to advocate on behalf of the specific and unique concerns faced by Central Valley constituents on this critical issue.

**This conference call followed an in-depth briefing I participated in Coalinga regarding critical federal water issues that impact the Central Valley.** Congressional delegates from the Valley, including Congressmember Costa, joined local stakeholders and staff from various elected officials, in sharing their interests and ideas. Many of the individuals with whom I work closely with depend heavily upon water for their livelihoods and they are very concerned with recent court decisions. Water has always been a volatile political issue in California and I wanted to take the time to update, and receive input from, the people I personally represent.

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### **Constituents Visit Sacramento**

I am pleased to announce that the **City of Avenal** has been awarded a \$35,000 grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for **affordable housing** and economic development activities that will benefit lower-income households.

The Department of Housing and Community Development has awarded the **City of Delano** a \$300,000 **Freeze Disaster grant** to assist in reducing the impact of lower-income households currently unemployed due to the closure of agricultural fields and businesses.

**Tulare County** also received a **Freeze Disaster grant** from HCD's Community Development Block Grant Program.

The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development has awarded **Kern Medical Center** a grant of \$17,205 under the **Song-Brown Health Care Workforce Training Act** to help expand the capacity of medical residency training programs and encourage students to seek careers in California's underserved areas.

Kudos to the **Kit Carson Union School District in Kings County.** They were found eligible for a \$350,000 **construction grant** under the Safe Drinking Water Bond Law administered by the California Department of Water Resources and Department of Public Health.

The **City of Delano** was found eligible for a **construction loan** from the California Department of Public Health. The proposed funding is provided in part from a Federal Capitalization Grant for

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

And I am pleased to announce that **Pioneer Union Elementary School District in Hanford** has been given eligibility for a \$1,000,000 **construction grant** under the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund through the California Department of Public Health.

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### **In the District**

The last two weeks have been busy in the district, and I have been meeting with many community leaders to hear about progress being made in the Valley. Among those with whom I have met with in **Fresno, Kings, and Tulare counties** include Riley Jones from the Hanford LP Power Plant, Kings County Supervisor Tony Oliveira, Lemoore City Councilmember Willard Rodarmel, West Hills College Chancellor Dr. Gornick, Bryn Forhan from the Fresno Community Medical Center, John Harris of Harris Ranch, and Tom Birmingham and Sarah Woolf of the Westlands Water District.

In **Fresno County**, I delivered a speech to the **State Bar of California's Standing Committee on Agriculture**. I gave an overview of some of the major legislative developments to come out of the 2007 Session, and shared a preview of what may lie ahead in 2008.

Last week, I attended the **Kern County Fair** for "Agriculture Night." That evening, I presented a resolution to Union Bank and Habitat for Humanity for the good work they do for our local communities. Habitat for Humanity continues to be an enormous help to low income families that want to own a home. Further, the organization helps to beautify rundown neighborhoods and make our communities better for all of us.

I was able to attend the **Isaiah's Sober Living Home - Family Fun Fishing Day in Bakersfield**. The event was hosted in an effort to send 500 kids fishing at Hart Park. I was glad to help by sponsoring the event and providing funds to help purchase fishing poles for the children. The Family Fun Fishing Day was an enormous success.

I was also pleased to join **California State University Bakersfield President Horace Mitchell, his wife Barbara** – and university leaders and supporters – for a wonderful evening to discuss CSUB's continued growth and success.

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### **Meeting Requests**

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Rozanne Jones** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at [Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov)

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### **Internships**

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at: [Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov)

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at: [Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov)

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at: [Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov)

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